

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1-9, 38-47, 84-86, and 119-123 were pending. Claims 1-9, 38-47, and 119-122 were rejected. Claims 1, 39, 84, 119, and 120 have been amended without introducing any new matter. No claims have been added or canceled. Thus claims 1-9, 38-47, 84-86, and 119-123 are pending.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 84-86 and 123 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 84, to correct a matter of form, by replacing a colon with a semicolon. Because the amendment was made merely as a matter of form, and does not touch the substance of the claim language, the Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the Examiner's indication, claims 84-86 and 123 are now in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 39, 119, and 120 to include matter which the Examiner indicated as being allowable subject matter. In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 39, 119, and 120 are now in condition for allowance. All remaining rejected dependent claims depend from an independent claim which has been amended to include allowable subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 38-40, 120-122 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious under International Publication WO 99/28865 of Decegama (hereinafter "Decegama") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,748,786 of Zandi et al. (hereinafter "Zandi"). The Examiner rejected claims 39, 40 and 122 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abdel-Malek in view of Zandi. The Examiner Rejected claim 119 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,579, hereinafter "Katayama") in view of Zandi. The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Decegama in view Zandi and further in view of Shapiro (U.S. Patent No. 5,412,741, hereinafter “Shapiro”). The Examiner rejected claims 4, 5, 42, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decegama in view Zandi and further in view of Chen et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,745). The Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, 44, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decegama in view Zandi and further in view of Creusere (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,111). The Examiner rejected claims 8 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decegama in view Zandi and further in view of Kouri et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,847,737). The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decegama in view Zandi and further in view of Muran (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,452).

In view of the amendments to the pending claims, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are now moot. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertions made in the Final Office Action, the amendments were made to expedite the prosecution and issuance of the present application.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all applicable rejections and objections have been overcome, and that all claims are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: _____

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Michael J. Mallie
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 36,591

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300
Fax (408) 720-8383